

# Politics A-level

- AQA exam board
- Essay based course
  - All of the marks depend on extended writing skills
- During this course we recommend:
  - An interest in politics
  - Active involvement in politics
  - An independent learning approach
- Subjects that go together with politics particularly well = History, Economics

# 2022 leavers: Your topics

PAPER 1: GOVERNMENT & POLITICS OF THE UK	PAPER 2: GOVERNMENT & POLITICS OF THE USA AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS	PAPER 3: POLITICAL IDEAS
British Constitution	Constitutional framework	Liberalism
Parliament	Congress (legislature)	Conservatism
The Prime Minister and cabinet	The President (executive)	Socialism
The Judiciary	The Judiciary	One other ideology: e.g. feminism
Devolution	Electoral process and direct democracy	
Democracy and participation	Political parties	
Elections and referendums	Pressure groups	
Political parties	Civil rights	
Pressure groups	Comparative politics: <i>structural, rational and cultural</i>	
The European Union		

# A-Level Politics

Transition work is designed to give you a flavour of what A level Politics is about. It will introduce you to some core political concepts and events, to aid your understanding of politics ready for sixth form. Complete the tasks in the spaces provided – by hand or in Microsoft Word.

You are required to **bring your completed booklet to the first lesson in September.**

## Task One: What is Politics?

Politics is about power, about people, equality, war, conflict, debate, cooperation, freedom, money, etc. – it's about the relationship between the state and its citizens, or the state and other states. It governs almost everything we can and will do in our lives.

Use the internet to research what the following key terms mean and create a short definition for each one.

Term	Explanation
Power	
Authority	
Legitimacy	
Government	
The Executive (branch of govt.)	

Prime minister	
Cabinet	
The Legislature (branch of govt.)	
Parliament	
House of Commons	
House of Lords	
UK Supreme Court	
Rule of Law	
Devolution	
Brexit	

# Task Two: British Politics

Go to these links for the UK's three major parties:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50524262>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50501411>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50459123>

These links summarise their key manifesto policies in the 2019 general election. Choose 1 policy from each manifesto and explain below why you support OR do not support that policy.

Party: **THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY**



Manifesto policy:

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Agree/disagree & why:

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Party: **THE LABOUR PARTY**

Manifesto policy:

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Agree/disagree & why:

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Party: **THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

Manifesto policy:

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Agree/disagree & why:

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## Task Three: A Very American Issue

America has a codified constitution i.e. a systematic and authoritative collection of rules. It was written and amended in the late 1700s. One of the most famous amendments is **the second amendment**.

The task below requires you to do some research on the issues around this. Treat these questions as the minimum you must do, but add more information or examples where you can.

### Task Instructions:

Produce a separate document which gives answers to the following questions and challenges:

1. What is the wording of the Second Amendment?
2. Watch [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=48&v=0TGcU0ImINk&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=48&v=0TGcU0ImINk&feature=emb_logo) entitled 'Firearms in the US – History'. Summarise why the second amendment has led to so much debate.
3. What was the decision of the US Supreme Court in the 2008 case *District of Columbia v Heller*?
4. What is the NRA and why is it relevant to the Second Amendment?
5. Who is the current President of the USA and what are his/her views on gun control?
6. Describe one example of a mass shooting which has made some Americans call for tighter controls on ownership of guns.